

Appl. No.: 10/585,179
Reply to Office Action of: 11/30/2009

REMARKS

In the amended claims the independent claims (claims 1, 23 and 31) have been amended to recite that the cover is user-replaceable. Support for this amendment can be found in claim 3 and Fig. 1a of the published specification. The independent claims have also been amended to recite that the cover has first, second and third portions, the first and third portions being configured for user attachment to and detachment from a front/back portion of the device and the second portion comprises one or more predetermined fold lines. Support for this amendment can be found at e.g. Figs 1a and b, [0013], [0021] - [0022], [0026] - [0027] and [0041] of the published specification.

The dependent claims have been amended in line, including the cancellation of claim 3.

We have amended dependent claim 28 to recite that the adhesive is user-releasable. Support for this amendment can be found at [0046] of the published specification. We have also added new dependent claim 32. Support for this claim can be found e.g. at Fig. 1a and [0038] of the published specification.

Embodiments of the invention relate to an electronic device cover formed from a sheet of material dimensioned to at least partially cover an electronic device, wherein the sheet is configured to have a substantially flat configuration and a folded configuration and be bendable into the folded configuration to cover the electronic device (abstract of specification).

Appl. No.: 10/585,179

Reply to Office Action of: 11/30/2009

The cover may comprise one or more predetermined crease/fold lines to allow the cover to be easily bent into shape along pre-determined lines ([0041] of the specification).

The cover may be configured for user attachment to and user detachment from the electronic device (Figs 1a and b and [0038] of the published specification).

In the Office Action the Examiner has rejected all independent claims (claims 1, 23 and 31) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,330,430 (Jensfelt) in view of US 6,229,697 (Selker).

Jensfelt discloses a flexible sheet that has a plurality of fasteners which can be fastened together to form an open-cornered enclosure for a mobile terminal, such as a wireless phone. A mid-portion of the flexible sheet has a selectively adjustable length whereby the case can be made larger or smaller to accommodate a variety of differently-sized instruments (abstract of Jensfelt).

In Jensfelt at least one of the plurality of fasteners is arranged to fasten to another one of the fasteners whereby the sheet of flexible material is formed to enclose at least a portion of the mobile terminal (column 1, lines 41 - 44 of Jensfelt). That is, in Jensfelt the sheet is folded and fastens to itself to enclose the mobile terminal.

Selker discloses a notebook computer having a resilient, portfolio-type case that includes a large flat-panel display module and a processor-keyboard module constructed into the case so that the case need not be stored separately during

Appl. No.: 10/585,179

Reply to Office Action of: 11/30/2009

use. Crushable corners, an extending, protective lip and a resilient, rugged material provide added protection for the computer while in use and while being transported (abstract of Selker). In Selker, the portfolio case is made a permanent part of the notebook computer (col. 1, lines 21 - 24 of Selker).

It is respectfully submitted that neither Jensfelt nor Selker disclose, at least:

"a first portion configured for user attachment to and user detachment from a front portion of the electronic device;...

...a third portion, adjacent to the second portion, configured for user attachment to and user detachment from a back portion of the device..."

Jensfelt discloses that the sheet attaches to itself to form the cover and, therefore, does not disclose user attachment to and user detachment from a front/back portion of the device as recited in claim 1. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in Jensfelt that the cover should attach to the device. Jensfelt discloses only that the sheet should wrap around the device and fasten to itself to form the cover.

Selker discloses that the cover is a permanent part of the device. This teaches directly away from the feature of user attachment to and detachment from the device.

In the Office Action the Examiner has acknowledged that Jensfelt does not disclose that the sheet being configured such that the sheet wants to return to the flat configuration

Appl. No.: 10/585,179
Reply to Office Action of: 11/30/2009

were the sheet not held in the folded configuration. This feature remains in claim 1 in the form "the sheet being configured such that when folded along the one or more predetermined fold lines the sheet wants to return to the flat configuration were the sheet not held in the folded configuration by the electronic device."

The Examiner argues that Selker discloses this feature and that it would be obvious to combine the teachings of Jensfelt and Selker.

As discussed above Selker discloses a cover for an electronic device where the cover is a permanent part of the electronic device. As claim 1 has been amended to recite that the cover is user-replaceable and configured for user attachment to and detachment from the device it is respectfully submitted that a person having ordinary skill in the art would not consider Selker when considering embodiments of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it would not be obvious to combine the teachings of Jensfelt and Selker as alleged by the Examiner.

It is respectfully submitted that for the above reasons at least, claim 1 is novel and non-obvious over the cited prior art. The above arguments also apply equally to independent claims 23 and 31.

Arguments have been made in relation to all pending independent claims. As the independent claims are novel and non-obvious, the claims that depend from them are also novel and non-obvious. Separate explicit argument concerning the

Appl. No.: 10/585,179
Reply to Office Action of: 11/30/2009

patentability rejections raised against the dependent claims is not required, however we would like to make explicit arguments for the patentability of dependent claim 28.

Before our amendment claim 28 recited:

"28. (Previously presented) The cover according to claim 3, wherein the cover comprises an adhesive to allow the cover to be releasably held to the device as a cover."

In the Office Action the Examiner has alleged that claim 28 is disclosed by column 4, lines 1-14 of Jensfelt. This section of Jensfelt relates to the attachment of the fasteners to the sheet and recites that the fasteners may be adhesively attached to the sheet.

Claim 28 has been amended to recite that the adhesive is user-releasable. It is respectfully submitted that this is not disclosed in Jensfelt. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Jensfelt teaches away from this feature as the fasteners must be securely fastened to the cover to allow the case to function. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 28 is also novel and non-obvious over the cited prior art.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Appl. No.: 10/585,179
Reply to Office Action of: 11/30/2009

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Harrington 2/25/10
Mark F. Harrington (Reg. No. 31,686) Date

Customer No.: 29,683
Harrington & Smith,
Attorneys At Law, LLC
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212
203-925-9400

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